THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While no directive has been issued for making the assessment of colleges and universities mandatory, this Ministry is working out the modalities for increasing enrolment in higher education upto 15 per cent by the end of the Eleventh Plan period. Subject to finalization of the Eleventh Plan, it is proposed to expand the capacity of existing institutions, as well as to establish new institutions to address issues of access, quality and equity in higher education.

Bill for foreign education providers

760. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing a Bill to open up the country's education sector to foreign education providers;

(b) if so, whether Government had any consultations with stakeholders in the country's educational system such as students' organizations, organizations representing the teaching community, etc.;

(c) if so, the outcome of such consultations; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to undertake the consultation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The present policy of the Government permits Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the education sector. A legislative proposal on entry and operations of foreign educational institutions in the country is under consideration of the Government. The matter relating to entry of foreign universities in India was discussed at a Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education, held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005. The matter was also considered by a Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao. The All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation (AIFUCTO) has been opposing entry of foreign educational providers under GATS and privatization and commercialization of education.

Vocationalisation of secondary education

761. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether vocationalisation of secondary education is a centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) whether the scheme is also being implemented by the Gujarat Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have not released the amount of Rs. 4.67 crore, as part of the grant under the scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the remaining part of the grant would be made available to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) On 15.02.2002, Rs. 23.70 crore was released to Government of Gujarat against the State's claim of Rs. 41.02 crore for reimbursement of the payment of salary to the teachers. Further grants could not be released to Government of Gujarat due to non-receipt of clarification on pending audit para in respect of excess release of grants under the scheme.

Anti-ragging committees

762. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Central Universities have not constituted anti-ragging committees as required under Supreme Court's directions;

(b) if so, the names of these universities and the reasons for their not following Supreme Court's directions; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter and by when the concerned universities are likely to constitute anti-ragging committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas in North Eastern Region

763. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5,000 posts of teachers are lying vacant in the Kendriya Vidyalayas of North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the local talent available in abundance is being taped to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (b) No, Sir. However, 867 posts were lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the North East Region as on 1.08.2007 for various reasons which include retirement, resignation, termination from services of employees, opening of new KVs, upgradation of existing schools and" non-joining of duties by candidates on direct recruitment/promotion.

(c) Recruitment in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for all posts, except for Group -'D', is done on all India basis, through open competition. Candidates from